

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /087 W
-----192035Z 101361 /44

R 191933Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4862
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UK, AWACS, GW
SUBJECT: ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT

REFS: (A) LONDON 00804
(B) BONN 21523

1. THE UPCOMING FRG-UK SUMMIT MEETING WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE FAMILIAR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES. THE RESPONSIBLE FONOFF OFFICIAL, WOLFF, CONFIRMED TO US ON JAN. 18 THAT THERE WAS NO FIXED AGENDA FOR THE SUMMIT, AND THAT PRACTICALLY ALL TOPICS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL INTEREST WERE FAIR GAME (REF A).

2. WOLFF EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD BE "SUCCESSFUL," POINTING OUT THAT THERE WERE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS PER SE BUT RATHER COMMON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT SCHMIDT MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEDE TO BRITISH WISHES FOR A NEW OFFSET AGREEMENT, WOLFF REPLIED THAT IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY
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THE CHANCELLOR WOULD AGREE TO THIS IN VIEW OF THE POSITION TAKEN VIS-A-VIS THE AMERICANS.

3. COMMENT: AS IS OBVIOUS FROM THE COMPOSITION OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION -- FINANCE AND ECONOMICS MINISTERS-- THE FOCUS OF THE SUMMIT WILL BE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT, IF ANYTHING,

THE FRG MIGHT BE WILLING TO OFFER IN THESE TALKS WHICH IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE IN MULTILATERAL FORA (IMF, BASEL AGREEMENT). WE EXPECT THE GERMANS TO LISTEN SYMPATHETICALLY TO BRITISH EXPLANATIONS OF THEIR CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, BUT BELIEVE THE GERMANS WILL POINT TO THEIR RECENT POSITIVE ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THE UK FINANCIALLY RATHER THAN INDICATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY NEW ASSISTANCE.

THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW OFFSET AGREEMENT IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE GERMANS FOR OVER A YEAR NOW. NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND A BRITISH EMBASSY COLLEAGUE IN BONN HAS TOLD US THAT THE CHANCELLERY HAS BEEN STUDIOUSLY SILENT ON THE SUBJECT SINCE LAST FALL. GIVEN THE CHANCELLOR'S WELL-KNOWN ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH AGREEMENTS, IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF HE WERE TO ACCEDE TO BRITISH PRESSURE NOW, NOTWITHSTANDING U.K. THREATS TO WITHDRAW A PART OF THE BAOR FROM THE FRG.

THE CURRENT BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP IS THE AREA FRAUGHT WITH MOST STRAIN, AND DEFENSE MINISTERS LEBER AND MULLEY WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO PUT A POSITIVE FACE ON THEIR DISCUSSIONS. THE BRITISH WERE VERY UPSET BY LEBER'S UNKIND COMMENTS (REF B) REGARDING UK FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR AWACS. THE UK EMBASSY REBUTTED LEBER'S CHARGES IN A LETTER TO THE

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ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /087 W
-----192034Z 101350 /43
R 191933Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4863
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01132

"FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE."

BESIDES AWACS, ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS REGARDING
TANK HARMONIZATION AND A NEW MAIN BATTLE TANK ARE LESS
THAN SATISFACTORY. THE GERMANS BELIEVE THAT THEIR
OFFER TO PERMIT THE BRITISH TO PRODUCE THEIR SMOOTH BORE
120MM GUN WITHOUT COST AND WITH EXPORT RIGHTS IS
EXCEEDINGLY GENEROUS. THEY ARE PERPLEXED AND ANGRY THAT
THE OFFER WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED. ALSO, THE
GERMANS MUST BE UPSET THAT THE BRITS SUGGESTED THE
TERMINATION OF THEIR FUTURE MAIN BATTLE TANK AGREE-
MENT. WHEN ONE ALSO CONSIDERS THAT SUBSTANTIAL CONTIN-
GENTS OF THE BAOR ARE ON DUTY ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE RATHER
THAN IN THE FRG, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE FRG-UK SECURITY
RELATIONSHIP PRESENTS FORMIDABLE PROBLEMS FOR WHICH
NO GOOD SOLUTIONS SEEM READILY AT HAND.

IN SUM, WE EXPECT BOTH SIDES TO CELEBRATE THE
SUMMIT AS A "SUCCESS," BUT WITH LITTLE IF ANYTHING
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CONCRETE TO SHOW ON KEY ECONOMIC OR SECURITY ISSUES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, AIR DEFENSE, WARNING SYSTEMS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN01132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-0532
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770139/aaaabhmf.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02f6a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 804, 77 BONN 21523
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3563163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGLO-GERMAN SUMMIT
TAGS: PARM, UK, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02f6a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009